

We are losing ground to the Taliban in Afghanistan, where the NATO commander cannot even get the troops he says he needs.

Independent polls show America's standing in the world at the lowest ever recorded.

The good news is that there will be a chance in November's election where we will be able to not just send a message but change the leadership here in the House and start a new direction for America.

BETRAYED IN THE LINE OF DUTY

(Mr. POE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, the battle on the second front continues, and the U.S. Government shows it is on the wrong side of the border war.

Two border patrol agents named Ramos and Compean chased a drug dealer down on the Mexico-Texas border. Gun shots were exchanged. The drug smuggler fled back to safety in Mexico, leaving his van and 800 pounds of dope on the American side.

The U.S. decided to prosecute. The U.S. Attorney went to Mexico, found the drug dealer, took him to America, treated his bullet wounds, and then, get this, gave him immunity to testify against agents Compean and Ramos for their shooting him, the criminal.

Both border agents were convicted by an overzealous prosecutor that was looking for pelts in her belt. She appeared to have more loyalty to Mexico than to America because she was on the wrong side.

Both agents await sentencing. The two border agents should have been given medals and sent back down to the border to bag another drug dealer instead of being prosecuted.

Yet another example of how our government is more concerned about illegals and drug dealers than they are about America and Americans.

And that's just the way it is.

TAX CUTS FOR WEALTHY, PAY CUTS FOR MIDDLE CLASS

(Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, for a lot of American families it is becoming more and more difficult to make ends meet in the Bush economy. With sky-high gas prices this summer, rising health care costs and stagnant wages, working Americans are feeling a serious squeeze on their family finances.

Unfortunately, President Bush and the congressional Republicans refuse to address our economy because they think it is moving along smoothly. But that is simply not the case.

While full-time minimum wage earners face a 50-year low in buying power, and all Americans face wages that are

falling after inflation, corporate profits have reached their highest share of the economy since the 1960s. It would be nice if corporate CEOs and shareholders were not the only ones benefiting from the production American workers are bringing in every day. Democrats believe it is time for them to get their fair share.

Mr. Speaker, working Americans are ready for a new economic direction, one where workers are justly compensated for their efforts and the benefits of increased productivity can be shared by all. The days of catering exclusively to the wealthiest have helped create the troubling economic conditions that our Nation now faces. It is time for a change.

NATO STRATEGIC AIRLIFT CAPABILITY

(Mr. SHIMKUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, as a delegate of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly and very active in its defense subcommittee, and also the chairman of the Baltic Caucus, I am excited and extremely pleased with NATO's recent announcement in a letter of intent after 6 months of negotiation.

Thirteen Nations have developed a plan to create a NATO Strategic Airlift Capability based at Ramstein Air Force Base. Initially comprised of three to four C-17s, the SAC will be flown by multinational air crews, pilots and loadmasters, and a multinational military structure will be created to command and control these aircraft.

Boeing, who builds the C-17, is a great U.S. company. This aids in NATO's transformation and jobs for U.S. workers.

INTRODUCTION OF H. CON. RES. 453

(Mr. CARNAHAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, with record temperatures set in the first half of 2006, with hurricane season upon us, the need for Congress to address global climate change is more pressing than ever.

There is no longer debate within the scientific community. Global warming exists, and we need to do something about it.

We have the opportunity and the responsibility to take action to reverse the negative impacts of global climate change. However, this must be done both domestically and internationally.

It is time the U.S., with the international community, fully address the issue of global climate change.

Congressman Jim Leach and myself have introduced H. Con. Res. 453, a bipartisan resolution expressing the need for the U.S. to participate in inter-

national agreements that address global climate change.

I invite my colleagues to cosponsor this bill and join us in taking this step and begin addressing global climate change.

CONGRATULATING THE 2006 LITTLE LEAGUE WORLD CHAMPIONS

(Mr. WESTMORELAND asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, millions play our national pastime for the love of the game, but only the truly elite can claim the title of world champion.

I have the great pleasure of representing Columbus, Georgia, home of the 2006 Little League World Champions. Our community beams with pride for these incredible young sluggers and slingers.

The players for Columbus Northern are living the dream of every American boy who has ever slipped on a glove. In order to compete for the world championship, Columbus Northern first had to defeat the best Little League teams that the United States had to offer.

Then, as the American champions in the World Series, Columbus Northern took on a tough and talented Japanese team. The game was a defensive struggle, allowing Columbus Northern to win 2-1 after a 2-run homer by catcher Cody Walker, who also caught the fastball of winning pitcher Kyle Carter. The champs recently met one of the Nation's biggest baseball fans, President Bush, when he was in Atlanta.

The Columbus Northern team is on top of the world. It will have memories to last a lifetime.

Mr. Speaker, I salute the players of Columbus Northern. Georgians and Americans are thrilled with their success, and we are more than a little jealous, but very thankful, that they get to live every boy's dream.

PRESIDENT BUSH CONTINUES TO MISREPRESENT THE WAR IN IRAQ

(Mr. MORAN of Virginia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, in his speech on Monday night, President Bush continued to try to justify the invasion of Iraq by drawing nonexistent links to the 9/11 attacks. The President's misuse of the fifth anniversary of the attacks shows that he will go to any length to divert our attention from his failures in Iraq, which has diverted focus from America's real national security concerns.

President Bush, and most Republicans here in Congress, refuse to admit that things are not going well in Iraq. One has to only look at a report that we requested from the President's own Pentagon showing that the situation in Iraq has greatly worsened. The number of attacks against Americans and